

29 Buckingham Street,
Cambridge, Mass.,

Nov. 9, 1906.

Dear friend,-

I have read your letter with interest and am sorry that the perpetual pressure on me, at the age of eighty-two, largely about other people's affairs, will prevent my replying fully.

As to your question: I should say that there is no incompatibility between the life of the dreamer and the reformer and I should think that any reader of Thoreau, like yourself, would feel that especially in this new issue of his works which gives us his inmost reflections. The same is true of Mr. Alcott, as any one will see who reads in my "Part of a Man's Life" the chapter on "The Transcendental Period" of his part in the attempted rescue of Anthony Burns. Then when we go back to

Jesus Christ himself, we see the two qualities combined in the highest degree, so high that he seems to most people who call themselves Christians, a mingling of God and man. I think that He certainly comes nearer and indeed more profoundly valuable when viewed in ~~this~~^a more human light ~~than~~^{through} the steady tendency of cultivated minds.

I hope that this may meet in some degree the point you raise; in the mean time, thank you for writing me.

Cordially yours,

Thomas Wentworth Higginson